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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
JUDY A. JEFFREY, DIRECTOR

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State Teacher's Association Names Jeffrey 'Friend of Education'

Iowa Department of Education director thanks Iowa's teachers for their dedication to children.

DES MOINES, Iowa – The Iowa State Education Association (ISEA) presented Iowa Department of Education Director Judy Jeffrey with the Friend of Education Award on Friday, April 13. ISEA President Linda Nelson honored Jeffrey during the association's annual meeting in Ames.

During her speech at the event, Jeffrey thanked the approximately 500 Iowa educators in attendance and all Iowa teachers for their dedication to students. "Iowa has some of the finest educators in the nation," she stated.

Jeffrey noted that today's teachers are facing a new era in education and going back is not an option. Accountability, responsiveness, choice, diversity of student needs and greater demands for student achievement will continue to be part of the landscape of education.

While acknowledging the challenges that teachers face in an increasingly demanding profession, she also noted the many successes of Iowa's students as a result of the hard work of our educators. "Seventy to 80 percent of our students are considered proficient, our ACT scores are one of the top in the nation and Iowa's graduation rate is one of the highest in the nation," Jeffrey said during her speech.

Jeffrey thanked Nelson and the ISEA for the award and for the association's work to support Iowa's teachers and students.

Also honored by the ISEA were Mary Jane Sullivan, a sixth-grade teacher at North Mahaska; the late Paul Mann, a long-time Des Moines Central Campus teacher; Mireya Mendoza, a parent, school volunteer and advocate for the Latino community in Iowa City; and Toni Graham, a Shenandoah school secretary.

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The Iowa Department of Education works with the State of Iowa Board of Education to provide oversight, supervision and support for the state education system, which includes public elementary and secondary schools, nonpublic schools that receive state accreditation, area education agencies, community colleges and teacher preparation programs. The department is committed to high levels of learning, achievement and performance for all students, so they will become successful members of their community and the workforce.

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